

MINERAL KING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

With

CHIP PASHAYAN, JANUARY 10, 1984

PRESENT: Ora Kay Peterson; Sec/Treasurer of M.K. District Assoc.
Dental Hygienist, housewife, cabin-
owner, Republican, E. F. Peterson, D.D.S.
husband.

Bill Martin: Rancher, Minister, cabin owner, Democrat,
former Sec./Treas. of M.K. District Ass.
wife Lucinda, R.N. Kaweah Delta Hospital.

Annie Mitchell: Author, teacher, lecturer; member of
the Tulare County Historical Society, member
of the board of the Sequoia Natural History
Association, Ash Mt., life long resident of
Tulare County. Annie just published a new
book entitled, "Sites to See", historical
landmarks in Tulare County.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE PRESENT:

Stony Savage, President of M.K. District Assoc., cabin-
owner Faculty Flat, interim head of the
Tulare County Welfare Depart. Sends his greeti

John Crow: Attorney, parents own cabin in Cabin Cove.
John had to be at a hearing this morning.

Gary Houk: Attorney, Cabin owner, Faculty Flat; calendar
booked up this morning. Member of Board.

Jim Barton: Teacher, lecturer at COS, Faculty; cabin
owner, liason with Sequoia National Park
Service.

Many Others, but I cannot name them all here.

PURPOSE: We wish to preserve and keep the remaining cabins located in Mineral King Valley because of their historical significance by amending Bill H.R. 3341 of the Mineral King National Recreation area, Section 4, P.L. 95-625 to read; ~~"any renewals or extensions of leases or permits shall be granted only to those persons who were lessees or permittees of record on the date of enactment of this act, or his or her spouse, or any descendants of the lease holder of record, and any such lease or permit shall provide that the lease or permit may be terminated by the Secretary at any time the Secretary determines that such lease or permit is incompatible with the administration of the park pursuant to this section or that the land is needed for park purposes."~~

REASONS: Historical significance of these cabins:

50 to 75 year old cabins on the site of the early miner cabins. Wood was furnished by the old Atwell Mill no longer in existence. Have you ever seen a cabin's interior built of 1x24" planks?

We have the support of the Tulare County Historical Society requesting the continual habitation of these cabins in order to preserve and maintain them.

John Merritt, executive director of the California Preservation Foundation said the removal or destruction of these cabins would be contrary to National Park policy.

Robert E Mackensen, Preservation Architect of the Office of Historic Preservation, State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation stated these cabins fit in beautifully architecturally with the area, had very little impact environmentally, and lent themselves part of the charming atmosphere of Mineral King Valley.

Columbia, in California's fabled Mother Lode country is protected as a historic park and the people are allowed to stay in their homes and conduct their businesses.

The NPS does not have the money to preserve and maintain what they have, but somehow they manage to find money to acquire more land.

Since being acquired by the NPS our summer leases have gone from \$50 to \$250, considering there are a total of 92 cabins, they would lose considerable money.

The Silver City Store is financially dependent upon the cabin owners; if the cabins go, the Silver City Store would cease to exist.

The Crowley cabin is located on the site the NPS wants to return the Valley eventually to pristine condition by building a 200 car parking lot.

We are losing "owners of record" each year that goes by. Descendents of the lease holder of record may not want to invest money for repairs if there is no assurance one can use the cabin.

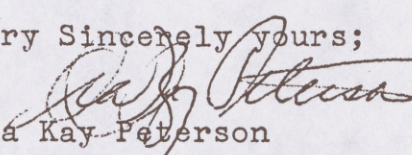
EVIDENCE: We have seen the remains of the removal and destruction of the cabins at Camp Conifer in order for the NPS's better use of land management.

The Cabinowners have been the caretakers of the land in Mineral King Valley long before the NPS took over and have just as much right to stay as the NPS and other visitors who enjoy the Valley. We are so few in number and most of us are not able to spend the entire summer in residence that we have less impact on the area than backpackers, campers, visitors, park personnel, etc. ^{and people}

The new Land Protection Plan April 1983 by the NPS states the Kaweah Han is the only structure of historical value. Perhaps, but many of our cabins are older than the Kaweah Han in Silver City.

OUR WISHES ARE: The Descendents of the lease holder of record wish to keep, maintain, preserve, and occupy our cabins in Mineral King Valley with out the threats of extinction every two years by NPS new Land Protection plans. By an amendment added to H.R. 3341 of the Mineral King National recreation area, Section 4, P.L. 95-625 we could hope to keep our cabins longer.

Very Sincerely yours;


Ora Kay Peterson

Cabin #16, Mineral King